

Meeting Notes

12 September 2007

Location: BLM Office, 915 Walla Walla Ave., Wenatchee

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RTT Members in Attendance: Casey Baldwin, Chuck Peven, Steve Hays, Tom Kahler, Tracy Hillman, John Arterburn, Bob Rose, Kate Terrell, Keely Murdoch, Dennis Carlson, Michelle McClure

Others in Attendance: Julie Morgan, Pamela Nelle, Steve Kolk, Mike Rickell, Derek Van Marter, Jon Honea, R.D. Nelle, Jen Bayer (via teleconference)

1. Review and adopt agenda

Casey convened the meeting at 9:10. The group had nothing to add to the agenda.

2. UCSRB update

- **Implementation Team update, adaptive management framework**

Derek circulated a schematic of the adaptive management framework for the Upper Columbia salmon recovery plan. Kate again suggested inserting a particular position as the facilitator/coordinator rather than or in addition to a person's name. The group agreed and Casey pointed out that positions, rather than or in addition to peoples names were used elsewhere on the framework so the suggestion would make the whole diagram more consistent. The challenge for the RTT is to determine its role in evaluating the scientific information as it relates to stock status review over time. Casey pointed out that, due to the volunteer nature of the RTT members, the RTT has a limited capacity to take on an intensive task such as analyzing the data and producing a document that evaluates stock status relative to the VSP parameters. However, it's much more likely with a funded RTT Chair, a data steward, and participation / coordination with NOAA Fisheries. An important factor in moving forward is to determine all the information that will be available to evaluate and how the RTT would interface with the other assessments such as the HCP hatchery M&E reports and NOAA Fisheries 5-year status reviews.

- **Data steward update**

Julie provided a status update on the process to interview candidates for the data steward position. Funding is in place for about a year of funding for the position. Additional letters and proposals have been sent out to possible funding sources. The Board will be following up on those letters to attempt to secure long-term funding. Interviews are scheduled for Thursday, September 13, following which the interview panel will decide to whom they will offer the position.

- **Appendix P cover letter**

The RTT and UCSRB drafted a cover letter to Rob Walton that was transmitted with the RTT responses to questions from their review of Appendix P. The ultimate point of the cover letter was to underscore the importance of prioritizing

what needs to be monitored over time and to recognize that there is not enough money to monitor everything outlined in the Appendix.

- Monitoring Forum

Julie provided an update on the newly renamed Washington Forum on Monitoring Watershed Health meeting in Seattle yesterday.

3. Three page data business case for PNAMP (Julie, Chuck, Jen Bayer)

Casey distributed a draft of the recent business case for the Executive Summit (October 2 in Portland) on Monitoring and Data Management. Jen described that the intent of the summit is to bring together executives and deputies to begin discussions on ways to share information across the broader region. The purpose of the business-case document is to provide the Executives with the benefits of pulling together the resources to share information across regions.

Casey commented that the current document does not justify the particular scale with which the upper Columbia is implementing its data management. The Upper Columbia only has one major population group across the ESU. Where there are ESUs with more than one major population group, our approach may not work effectively.

The RTT provided a few minor grammatical and editorial comments and gave Julie the okay to send it on to Jen Bayer as a document coming from the Upper Columbia RTT.

4. Summary of Citizen Committee ranking for 2007 SRFB projects

Casey updated the RTT on the citizens' process to rank the SRFB projects for Round 8. He pointed out the two discrepancies between the RTT scores and the Chelan Citizen Committee ranks. Casey identified a few specific issues with the proposed Lower Wenatchee Site 12/13, which had not benefited from an RTT site visit due to the proposal's late addition to the process. Additionally, the presentation to the Citizen Committee had new / different information that was not included in the proposal. The RTT decided that it would not be appropriate to comment on the new information at this time, in fairness to other projects and the pre-determined process. Casey also clarified with the RTT that a technical glitch in the state's PRISM system apparently prohibited the full proposals from the Methow Conservancy from being seen. Consequently, the RTT comments reflect what was presented in the hard copies of the proposals that came from the Lead Entity, but the Methow Conservancy had indeed responded to many of the RTT comments from the pre-proposal presentation workshop and site tour.

Casey brought up a concern that was expressed to him from a non-RTT member that RTT comments should be better classified as "consensus opinion" and "minority opinion". The concern stemmed from observations that project sponsors were reacting to all comments equally, and perhaps spending too much time and energy on the less important comments. The RTT confirmed Casey's assumption that if a comment makes it into the notes, then it should be considered a consensus opinion. If

RTT members disagree with a statement they need to be sure to speak up, or provide comments to the notes. The RTT recognized that some comments are more important than others and Casey recommended that if project sponsors need help sorting out the most important comments that they can always call him.

5. Revised Biological Strategy

Casey asked the RTT how it would like to proceed on completing the revised Biological Strategy. Casey suggested that he take a shot at incorporating the comments received to date and then present the changes to the group at the next meeting, the group agreed. Regarding the timing, Casey suggested that the next draft would need to be finalized by next spring, well before the next SRFB round begins. Suggestions were made that the RTT should get it done sooner rather than later, hopefully before the end of the year.

Casey suggested the RTT review the scoring criteria and score sheets, and whether any additional edits were warranted. The RTT agreed that the biggest stumbling block this past round was the lack of specific criteria for reviewing project design assessments. The RTT subgroup that previously worked through the score sheets and Appendix D will meet before the next RTT meeting to propose changes.

With respect to the scoring criteria, Casey informed the RTT that the UCSRB requested the RTT review the biological benefit scoring criteria based on the number of listed species. The Board was concerned that the multi-species bias might put the Okanogan steelhead at such a disadvantage that projects would not get funded, which in turn would affect the status of the ESU. Casey presented some statistics on the current scoring system that highlighted the magnitude of the multi-species bias when integrating across all the scoring criteria. The RTT talked about the difference between benefits to multiple species within a population versus within the entire ESU. Some options were discussed regarding tweaks to the current scoring system versus some correction factors that could be applied after scoring projects to increase the rank of single species projects that are particularly important. Casey pointed out that 90% of the total points are currently available to single species projects that are of high biological benefit, if the project and the proposal score well in the certainty of success category. This topic will also be addressed by the subgroup reviewing the Biological Strategy, and be brought back to the RTT for discussion at a future meeting.

6. Monitoring subcommittee update

Keely provided an update to the RTT on the monitoring and data management subcommittee. Last month, the subcommittee was asked to review the monitoring and data gaps across the region. Yesterday, she sent out a starter list of the gaps that have already been identified in the salmon recovery plan and in the biological strategy. While there were many similarities, there were also some striking differences that the subcommittee will address in its meeting this afternoon. The subcommittee will bring information back to the RTT next month for review and discussion.

7. Other business. Casey officially welcomed Michelle McClure to the RTT. Michelle had accepted our nomination last spring but had to delay participation until this fall.

8. Adjourn

Casey adjourned the meeting at 11:50 p.m.

Meeting notes by Derek Van Marter and Casey Baldwin

Meeting Notes approved by: Tracy Hillman, Chuck Peven, Tom Kahler, Pamela Nelle